

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Letter Carriers Fight Hunger on May 12 ***World's Largest Food Drive Helps Millions of Americans in Need***

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Letter carriers in more than 10,000 communities across America will join forces to help stamp out hunger. On Saturday, May 12, postal employees in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands will collect non-perishable food items and deliver them to local community food banks, pantries and shelters across the country. They will be participating in the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) food drive, the world's largest annual single-day food drive.

“Since the drive began in 1993, postal customers have been extremely generous by donating more than three-quarters of a billion pounds of food,” said Postmaster General John E. Potter. “We’re looking forward to the most successful food drive ever this year. I ask every American to remember the less fortunate on Saturday, May 12.”

An estimated 35 million people are at risk of hunger in America, including 12 million children. In late spring, most food banks begin running out of donations received during the holiday period. This drive is one way people can join the U.S. Postal Service to help stamp out hunger right in their own community.

Long-time supporters of the drive include the U.S. Postal Service, Campbell Soup Company, America's Second Harvest, Cox Target Media, local United Ways and the AFL-CIO Community Services Network. The drive is an outgrowth of the tradition of community service letter carriers have established over the years, whether by watching over the elderly through the Carrier Alert program, assisting the American Red Cross during times of disaster or rescuing victims of fires, crime and other mishaps.

How to Help

More than 120 million postcards were mailed to customers in towns and cities throughout America letting them know about the food drive. Customers who did not receive a postcard can contact their local post office to see if it is participating in this year's drive.

Customers are asked to place bags of non-perishable food items such as canned soup, canned vegetables, pasta, rice or cereal next to their mailbox before their letter carrier delivers the mail on Saturday, May 12. The letter carrier will do the rest, taking the food to the post office where it is sorted and delivered to an area food bank or pantry.

Postal customers in New York City and Chicago are asked to take their food donations to their local post office starting on Monday, May 7 and continuing through Saturday, May 12.

Sign up to receive an e-mail reminding you to place non-perishable food items next to your mailbox at www.helpstampouthunger.com.

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An independent federal agency, the U.S. Postal Service is the only delivery service that visits 146 million homes and businesses, six days a week. It has 37,000 retail locations and relies on the sale of postage, products, and services to cover its operating expenses. The Postal Service has annual revenues of \$73 billion and delivers nearly half the world's mail.

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